Death in Jehangirpuri due to Choked Sewer

1220. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent death of a person in Jehangirpuri in Delhi due to marsh gas which had accumulated in choked sewers;

(b) whether Government have made any inquiry into the incident to fix responsibility for the callousness of the civic authorities; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) to (c) Delhi Police have reported that on 4-3-1989 one Shri Ram Desar of Jahangir Puri had gone to ease himself in the public latrine where he lit a match for smoking and was cought by flames resulting in burn injuries. He succumbed to the injuries in the hospital on the following day. The postmortem of the dead body was waived on the request of the members of the family of the deceased. They did not make any further complaint and therefore no further action was taken. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi have reported that no evidence of any marsh gas was found in the latrine block which has 24W.C. seats with two septic tanks.

Dumping of Garbage and wastes Across the Back of Nizamuddin Tomb

1221. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that across the back of Nizamuddin Tomb and between Ring Road and the Yamuna river a lot of garbage and wastes are being dumped and if so, the details thereof and the names of the authorities who have approved this dumping site;

(b) whether this is likely to pollute the river further and also contaminate underground water and pose a threat to those using handpumps water; and

(c) whether the Central Water Pollution Board, Delhi, is siezed of this problem and if so, what action has been taken by them; and if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Powers to Press Council

1222. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in Times of India dated 12th February, 1989, regarding paucity of funds for Press Council; and

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the Press Council Act, the Council has no legal authority but only moral authority and if so, whether Government propose to give it legal authority or disband the Council ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Government have seen the news item. While addressing the journalists in Nagur, the Chairman, Press Council had